corrosive sublimate. 7. In suitable cases, when properly employed, these remedies are among the strongest weapons wherewith to fight the disease. 8. One-quarter of a grain of corrosive sublimate should be administered in each injection; if mercurials have already been employed, one-sixth of a grain. 9. Corrosive sublimate is of undoubted value in lesions of the face, and when a rapid impression is desired; likewise when important structures, as the brain or eye, are attacked. The hypodermatic treatment is a substitute for inunction, of advantage when time is an object; in relapsing syphilis; in disease of the nervous system; in rebellious eruptions. 10. The gray oil should be employed in severe secondary syphilis when there is evidence of a tendency to relapse; in nervous syphilis it is far superior to inunctions. 11. This treatment is the most reliable and active that can be employed.—*The Therapeutic Gazette*, 1894, No. 5, p. 309.

ANÆSTHESIA BY ETHYL BROMIDE.

DR. CH. ELOY carefully reviews this subject. Anæsthesia takes place in two stages: the first partial—consciousness is not lost; the second, consciousness is lost. It is an anæsthetic at once powerful and rapid. It cannot be employed for long operations nor when there is likely to be a great loss of blood, for the drug will increase it. Clinically it is contra-indicated in pulmonary tuberculosis, acute or chronic bronchitis, pulmonary emphysema, cardiac affections, severe anæmia, hysteria, and alcoholism. It is employed in the same way as is chloroform. It is the anæsthetic of choice for short operations, but it cannot replace chloroform. If used with chloroform (mixed anæsthesia), it shortens the pre-anæsthetic stage, and is the method of choice in large operations.—*Journal des Praticiens*, 1894, No. 35, p. 412.

[When this anæsthetic was employed in this country, some fourteen years ago, it was found to be dangerous, even causing death, so that its use was abandoned.—R. W. W.]

THE PHYSIOLOGICAL ACTIONS OF ALCOHOL.

DR. DAVID CERNA concludes a most interesting paper as follows: 1. Alcohol in small amounts excites and in large doses depresses both the peripheral motor and sensory nerves. 2. Excessive quantities cause a spiral degeneration of the axis cylinder of nerve fibres. 3. Reflex action is at first increased and afterward diminished by an influence exerted upon the spinal cord and the nerves. 4. In small amounts the drug stimulates the cerebral functions; it afterward, especially in large quantities, depresses and finally abolishes them. 5. Alcohol causes a lack of co-ordination by depressing both the brain and spinal cord. 6. In toxic doses alcohol produces hyperæmia of both brain and spinal cord, especially of the lumbar enlargement of the latter. 7. Small doses of alcohol produce increased rapidity of the heart-beat; large amounts, a depression of the same. In either case the effect is brought about mainly through a direct cardiac action. 8. The drug in small quantities causes a rise of the arterial pressure by a direct action upon the heart; in large amounts it depresses the arterial pressure similarly through a cardiac influence. 9. In large doses alcohol enhances coagulation of the blood; in toxic quantities it destroys the ozonizing power of this fluid, causing a separation of the hæmoglobin from the corpuscles. 10. Alcohol in small doses has little or no effect upon the respiratory functions; in large amounts it produces a depression of both rate and depth of the respiration through a direct action upon the centres in the medulla oblongata. 11. The drug kills by failure of the respiration. 12. On the elimination of carbon dioxide alcohol exercises a varying action, sometimes increasing, sometimes decreasing such elimination. 13. The action of alcohol on the amount of oxygen absorbed also varies, and may be said to be practically unknown. 14. The drug lessens the excretion of tissue-waste, both in health and disease. 15. In small amounts alcohol increases bodily temperature; in large doses it diminishes the same. The fall of bodily temperature is mainly due to an excess of heat-dissipation caused by the drug. 16. Alcohol, in sufficiently large amounts, has a decided antipyretic action. 17. In moderate amounts alcohol aids the digestive processes. 18. Alcohol diminishes the absorption of fats. 19. The drug exercises a varying influence on the amount of urine secreted, but it probably increases the activity of the kidneys. 20. In large doses, or when continuously used for a long time, alcohol produces cirrhotic changes, especially of hepatic tissue, and paralysis of spinal origin. It also causes insanity, epilepsy, and other maladies. 21. Alcohol is mainly burnt up in the system, when taken in moderate quantities, but when ingested in excessive amounts it is partly eliminated by the breath, the kidneys, and the intestines. 22. Alcohol is a conservator of tissue, a generator of vital force and may, therefore, be considered as a food.—*Therapeutic Gazette*, 1894, No. 6, p. 371.

THE GLYCERO-PHOSPHATES.

M. A. ROBIN has been led to use these remedies because, in his studies upon neurasthenia, he had noted that certain patients eliminated in the urine considerable quantities of incompletely oxidized phosphorus, indicating an exaggerated denutrition of the nervous lecithin. It is well known that the greater portion of the unoxidized phosphorus is found in the urine as phosphoric acid, and that this is one of the constituents of lecithin. Since, then the elimination of medicinal phosphates is accomplished with great difficulty, it is believed that phosphorus is furnished to the organism in an organic combination which approaches that which obtains in the nervous system. Marvellous results are obtained, and these especially upon the apparatus of innervation. The calcium, sodium, and potassium glycero-phosphates are used, either singly or combined, administered by the mouth or subcutaneously. The lime salt in a four-grain dose given subcutaneously will increase the urea, the chlorides, sulphates, lime, magnesium and potassium, the coefficients of nitrogen and sulphur oxidation. It does not appear to have a marked influence upon the uric acid, and only causes slight variations in the amount of incompletely oxidized phosphorus, which it tends rather to diminish. It has a powerful influence in accelerating nutrition, and this acceleration has its source in the especial stimulation of the nervous apparatus. In this respect its action is entirely antagonistic to that of antipyrine, which is the remedy for exaggerated nervous excitability, as the glycero-phosphates are indicated for nervous depression. They have been successful in the convalescence from epidemic influenza and infectious diseases, the nervous asthenia